

~~Top Secret~~

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DIRECTORATE OF  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# WEEKLY SURVEYOR

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84

2 November 1970

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Weekly Surveyor

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2 November 1970

Soviets Reveal Weight of Luna 16 Sample: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the quantity of  
lunar material returned by Luna 16 was almost 200 grams. [REDACTED]

Comment: This is the first time the Soviets have released any information regarding the weight of the sample of lunar material brought back to the earth by Luna 16. Earlier intelligence estimates had placed the weight of the material returned as being on the order of a pound

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(454 grams) or less. While this is far less than the amount of lunar material brought back by Apollo 11 or 12, it should be enough to allow the Soviets to carry out a thorough scientific analysis.

It is to the Soviets' credit that they chose to design a drill capable of obtaining a core of lunar material rather than a scoop which probably would have been simpler to design. For scientific analysis, it is much better to have a core to work with. The drilling mechanism used in the Luna 16 mission also has a potential for future planetary exploration such as an unmanned soft lander on Mars. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]